

## Take up long-term project to promote adult literacy

### Speakers tell roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday stressed the need for serious policy advocacy among the government and all the stakeholders to build an effective adult literacy campaign. They also called for taking up a long-term and sustained programme to promote adult literacy in order to achieve overall development of the country. Literacy experts and educators took part in the roundtable titled 'Role of adult literacy in poverty alleviation & Bangladesh policy perspective' at the Spectra Convention Centre in the city, organised by the Friends in Villages Development Bangladesh (FIVDB) in association with Unesco, the

Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC) and Brac Institute of Educational Development. The Daily Star was the media partner.

The speakers pointed out the indifferent attitude of the government towards adult literacy programmes and discussed possible strategies for the NGOs and stakeholders to step up the campaign.

Dr Harbans Singh Bhola, professor emeritus at Indiana University, USA, observed that the government should take the responsibility for imparting adult education, no matter whatever role the NGOs play in this regard.

Lauding the civil society and NGOs as most vibrant, Prof Bhola

said, "Developing a state and civil society union, the mass adult literacy campaign, fully resourced by the state, can enable the literacy workers to reach every adult female and adult man, in every family in every community in Bangladesh, and eradicate illiteracy."

Almost all the NGOs are working for the development of economy, but only a few for adult education, resulting in the failure to bring about any structural changes, he said, adding that even the Project Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) has not focused on adult literacy.

Rasheda K Chowdhury, executive director of CAMPE, who moderated the roundtable, said, "While lower inflation and higher GDP are the targets, the basic needs would

remain out of reach."

Dr Manzoor Ahmed, director of the Institute of Educational Development, Brac University, cited the faulty projects of the government under the directorate of non-formal education.

He said education experts had proposed a policy for adult literacy, which was even appreciated by the government, but a provision for not involving the bureaucrats in the project upset the government. "They rejected the paper and the project under the directorate appears to be a total waste of money."

Wolfgang Vollmann, country director of Unesco, insisted on initiating 'professional approach', instead of 'voluntary approach', with regard to the payments to teachers at the community learning centres.

The speakers also placed some recommendations, including forming a platform for specific advocacy to sensitise the government, NGOs, civil society and donors, collective campaign with demonstration of success, proper use of NGO resources and keeping the issue alive through media engagement.

Brig Gen (ret.) Shahedul Anam Khan, editor, defence and strategic affairs, The Daily Star, Hasan A Keynan, Unesco programme specialist (education), Barbara Payne, senior education officer, DFID, Zahin Ahmed of FIVDB, ANS Habibur Rahman, consultant, ROSC project, Shob Siddiqui of ActionAid and Ehsanur Rahman of Dhaka Ahsanullah Mission also spoke.

An exhibition of easy-to-read adult literacy materials was also held on the occasion.



Rasheda K Chowdhury, executive director of CAMPE, speaks at a roundtable titled 'Role of adult literacy in poverty alleviation and Bangladesh policy perspective' at the Spectra Convention Centre in the city yesterday. On her right are Dr Harbans Singh Bhola and Dr Manzoor Ahmed.

## JU to formulate code of conduct for student bodies

JU CORRESPONDENT

The tripartite meeting between the leaders of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and the authorities of Jahangirnagar University (JU) on Monday night has apparently failed to reach an agreement on peaceful co-existence of both the student bodies on the campus during the tenure of the caretaker government.

The emergency meeting, held at vice-chancellor's residence at about midnight, was convened following armed clashes between the activists of the two organisations the same night.

The meeting presided over by Vice-chancellor Prof Khandaker Mustahidur Rahman, however, reached a consensus that they will refrain from attacking as well as ousting anyone from the halls until a code of conduct for student organisations is formulated tomorrow.

"The meeting seemed a successful one. A code of conduct for student bodies will be formulated on November 16 under the supervision of the VC," said Mohammad Mafuhi Sattar, proctor of the university.

## Classes, exams postponed

Bangladesh University authorities yesterday have postponed all the classes and examinations until the blockade programme ends, says a press release.

All the classes and examinations will resume as soon as the blockade ends, read the press release. But university office and admission activities will continue during this period.

Meanwhile, all the classes of Mohammadpur Preparatory and Higher Secondary School have been postponed due to the countrywide blockade enforced by different political parties, says another press release.

But the test examination for the girls of class X will be held on due time.

## Election commissioners unwilling

FROM PAGE 1

commissioner told The Daily Star, seeking anonymity. "Considering my health condition, my family members do not want me to continue in my present office," he said in an emotion-choked voice.

Another election commissioner said, "He is mentally prepared to quit office."

But CEC Aziz repeatedly announced that the next parliamentary election would be held under his authority.

The CEC even behaved rudely with an adviser to the caretaker government (CG) who went his residence recently to seek his opinion whether he would resign if requested by the CG. Aziz not only refused to do so, he denied that any adviser met him or made any such request. But the adviser later disclosed that he went to the CEC's residence.

## WEATHER TODAY

### Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 32.1 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 16.3 degree Celsius at Dinajpur.

**The sun sets in the capital at 5.13pm today and rises at 6:14am tomorrow.**

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

| City/Town   | Temperature |      | Humidity in percentage |         |
|-------------|-------------|------|------------------------|---------|
|             | Max         | Min  | Morning                | Evening |
| Dhaka       | 30.0        | 20.0 | 70                     | 77      |
| Chittagong  | 32.0        | 23.2 | 70                     | 78      |
| Rajshahi    | 29.6        | 18.2 | 80                     | 79      |
| Khulna      | 30.0        | 20.7 | 79                     | 81      |
| Barisal     | 30.3        | 19.8 | 84                     | 88      |
| Sylhet      | 31.7        | 21.0 | 80                     | 70      |
| Cox's Bazar | 32.1        | 24.4 | 81                     | 79      |



Executive Director of Oitithya Onneswan Prof Sufi Mustafizur Rahman and Director of New Business Division of GrameenPhone Kafil HS Mueyed shake hands after signing a MoU at a city hotel yesterday. Under the deal, GP will provide Tk 30 lakh in next one year for the excavation of the 2500-year-old Wari-Bateswar heritage site in Narsingdi. (Story on page 16)

Following this, different political parties, professional bodies and civil society personalities are demanding formation of Supreme Judicial Council for his removal from office for such 'serious misconduct'.

The council of advisers is now discussing with major political parties to find out ways to make the EC credible.

Meanwhile, Aziz on Monday said he is not worried about the growing crisis in the political arena centring demands for his resignation. He is now preparing to announce the schedule for the next election by November 25.

Responding to a query from reporters while leaving office yesterday, the CEC said he is fine. He however declined to respond any other questions.

Sources in the EC Secretariat said Aziz had attempted to resign in January following the High Court judgement that went against his

unilateral decision to prepare a fresh voter list. Two the then election commissioners -- M Munsef Ali and AK Mohammad Ali -- severely opposed preparation of a fresh voter list.

But in consultation with the then four-party coalition government, some senior officials prevented Aziz from stepping down, the sources mentioned.

The government then appointed Justice Mahfuzur Rahman and SM Zakaria as election commissioners to give the CEC majority in the EC over preparation of the voter list.

Aziz, who was appointed CEC on May 23 last year, has harmed the image of the EC by initiating controversial steps and making contradictory statements.

As a result, people have lost confidence in the present EC, political analysts noted.

## Police team off to Congo

Bss, Dhaka

A contingent of 125 police personnel left Dhaka on Monday night to join the United Nations Peace Keeping Mission in Congo (MONUC).

The contingent led by Superintendent of Police Akkas Uddin Bhuiyan flew to Congo by a chartered flight of Jordanian Airlines.

## Deadline for submissions to TIB debate extended

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has extended the deadline for submissions to its debate competition until November 20 due to unavoidable reasons.

Interested students should submit their applications along with a letter of testimony from the head of the educational institute or department, one copy of passport-sized photograph and telephone number. They must mention 'Debate Competition' on the envelope.

Applications should reach the Transparency International Bangladesh, Progress Tower, House-1 (6th floor), Road-23, Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212 by the deadline. Applications can also be sent through e-mail -- [advocacy@tib-bangladesh.org](mailto:advocacy@tib-bangladesh.org).

TIB will inform the participants of venue, date, time and topics of the debate in due time.

TIB has organised the debate competition on the occasion of Anti-Corruption Day to raise awareness among the young people. The day will be observed on December 9.

College and university students can participate in the open and shadow parliamentary forms of debate individually or through teams representing their institutions, said a TIB press release.

At total of 13 debaters, including the best three, will be given certificates and awards.

## Wild elephants trample one to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Wild elephants trampled a farmer to death and injured three of his family members at Thinkhali of Ukhiya upazila in Cox's Bazar yesterday.

The victim was Abdul Gafur, 40, son of Hashem Ali while the injured were his son Monir Alam, 8, daughter Shahana Begum, 10 and wife Lulu Begum, 35.

Sources said a herd of wild elephants attacked the victims while they were sleeping at midnight. The elephants also damaged the house.

On information, police rushed to the spot and with the help of the locals succeeded in scaring the elephants away after firing blank shots.

Police recovered the body of the victim and sent to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

The injured were also admitted to the same hospital.



Peshajibi Nari Samaj stages a demonstration in front of Dhaka Club yesterday demanding resignation of the chief election commissioner.

## CA promoting partisan staffs

### Say professional bodies

Sammita Nagarik Andolon and Peshajibi Samannaya Parishad yesterday called for removal of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Justice MA Aziz and his associates in a bid to free the nation from the prevailing political unrest, says a press release.

Protesting the police atrocities on the peaceful rally at Karwan Bazar and killing of an Awami League activist, they said no government lasted in the past by attacking agitators.

President/Chief Adviser Iajuddin Ahmed is promoting partisan government officials when the whole nation is demanding removal and transfers of the officials appointed on political consideration, they said.

The speakers at the rally include Prof AK Azad Chowdhury, Ramendu Majumder, Principal Abdul Ahad Chowdhury, Dr Kazi Faruque Ahmed, Nasir Uddin Yusuf,

Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Dr Kamrul Hasan Khan, Prof ARM Faruque, Awami League leaders Abdul Mannan, Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, Dr Abdur Razzak, Engineer Nazrul Islam, Dr Iqbal Arslan, Agriculturist Nazrul Islam, Freedom Fighter Mohammad Salauddin, Golam Kuddus, Prof Muntasir Mamun, Engineer Yaser Usman, Dr Nim Chandra Bhowmik, Abdus Samad Pintu, Dr Jamal Uddin Chowdhury, Engineers Nurul Huda and Abdus Sabur, Shaiful Bahar Majumder, Fakir Sheikh Ziauddin Ahmed and Humayun Kabir.

Earlier, the leaders of the bodies held processions at Bangla Motor, Shahbagh, Shadinata Stambha, National Press Club and High Court and chanted slogans in favour of their demands.

## Polls to be free, fair, hopes India

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

India has expressed the hope that the general elections in Bangladesh due in January will be free and fair.

"We only hope that the people of Bangladesh will have a free and fair election and democracy will take a firm root there," External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee told reporters yesterday.

India is also keeping a close watch on the developments in the country as the 14-party alliance is staging protests demanding removal of Chief Election Commissioner Justice MA Aziz.

The situation in Bangladesh has caused some consternation in New Delhi, sources said.

## 'No scope for delay in removing CEC'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Workers' Party of Bangladesh President Rashed Khan Menon yesterday said there is no scope for delay in removing the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) MA Aziz because it is not a constitutional problem, rather a political one.

"In the past, Ershad and Khaleda also tried to legitimise power through their illegal elections, but they failed in the face of people's resistance," said Menon while speaking at a rally organised by City unit of Workers' Party at Topkhana in the city.

He also urged people to peacefully observe blockade programme ignoring all provocations and braving all obstacles.

Workers Party Politburo Members Anisur Rahman Malik, Nurul Hasan, Central Members Hajera Sultana, Mozammel Huq Tara and other leaders also spoke at the rally.

## Concern over political unrest

A total of 456 pro-BNP teachers of Dhaka University (DU) yesterday expressed grave concern over the current political unrest and anarchic situation in the country, says a press release.

In a statement, they said 'an identified quarter' in the name of politics is leading the country towards anarchy. They are also pushing the country's economy on the verge of destruction by creating chaos in the name of non-stop blockade 'illogically', they said.

They also said the same quarter had killed people beating with sticks and oars by their cadres on October 27, 28 and 29.

They expressed their concern

over the violation of law and constitution that have been happening during the blockade.

The teachers urged the president/Chief Adviser of the caretaker government to take stern measures to protect people's life and property.

They also urged all to give up the confrontation for the sake of a free and fair election.

The signatories to the statement included Prof Aminur Rahman, Prof Ferdous Hossein, Prof Sadru Amin, Prof Tazmeri SA Islam, Prof Kamrul Ahsan Chowdhury, Prof Anwar Ullah Chowdhury, Prof Mozammel Haq and Tahmina Akhter.

## BNP protests 'killings, anarchy' by 14-party

FROM PAGE 1

Motijheel, City Mayor Sadek Hossain Khoka urged the government to announce the election schedule immediately and said, "The caretaker government will be responsible if democracy is harmed by wasting time... so do not take any decision bowing to the 14-party demands."

"It does not matter for BNP who is in the government or in the Election Commission... we only depend on the people to win elections," he said.

Blasting 14-party coalition, he said it is trying to destroy democracy through creating anarchy in the country. But it should remember that BNP is a big political party which believes in democracy.

BNP's Joint Secretary General Nazrul Islam Khan criticised 14-party for demanding resignation of the chief election commissioner and said, "MA Aziz is an honest person, a barrister and a justice... he has no link with any political party."

Jubo Dal President Barkat Ullah Bulu said, "From now on we will be

on the streets and we will be there until 14-party withdraws its programme."

Dhaka City BNP Secretary Abdus Salam asked the caretaker government to file a case against Sheikh Hasina for the loss of life and property since October 28.

Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal organised a rally in front of Sonali Bank Bhaban in Motijheel of the city with Nazrul Islam Khan in the chair.

Among others Central Office Secretary of BNP Mofikul Hasan Tripti, Habib Un Nabi Sohel, Abul Kashem Chowdhury also spoke there. Later they brought out a procession that ended at BNP's central office in Nayapaltan.

BNP Joint Secretary General Aman Ullah Aman, Ruhul Qudus Talukder Dulu, Nazim Uddin Alam and Nazrul Islam Khan led a procession and a rally in Lalbagh area.

Former state minister Maj (ret) Kamrul Islam spoke at a rally in the city's Badda area and later he led a procession.

Mohammadpur thana BNP organised a rally protesting 'anar-

chy and vandalism by 14-party'. Former lawmaker also BNP Standing Committee Member Khandaker Mahbub Uddin addressed the rally as chief guest. Khandaker Mahbub later addressed another rally in New Market area of the city.

Former minister Mirza Abbas addressed a rally in Dhalpur of the city, and former lawmaker Salauddin attended a rally organised by Shyampur thana BNP.

BNP and its allies also organised rallies and processions in the city's Nayabazar, Dholaikhal, Siddheshwari, Balurmath, Shantinagar, Mugdopara, Rampura, Pallabi, Tejganga, Nawabganj, Rokeya Sarani, BRTC bus stand, and Banani Bazar areas.

There was a BNP rally at Shahid Faruq Sarak in Demra also.

Earlier BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan at a meeting with his party leaders gave directions to former lawmakers for making the programmes successful.

## Judges again ask govt to ensure their security

FROM PAGE 16

The BJS President Mohammad Rafiqul Islam was held at its Judges' Conference Room at 4:30pm while all judges posted at the Dhaka District and Sessions Judges and the Metropolitan Sessions Judges Courts were present.

All judges across the country also observed the death anniversary of the two judges.

Earlier on February 12, the BJS postponed its agitation following an assurance from the then law ministry to meet its 11-point demand, but the then government did not fulfil the demands.

Speakers at the meeting said the last government had taken several steps for ensuring the judges' security and the steps were effective only for a few days. Moreover, most of the judges including joint district judges and assistant judges are yet to get security.

Judge Abdul Awal of the Sixth Assistant Judge's Court Dhaka, who was the only eyewitness of the bomb attack on the two judges of Jhalakathi district, yesterday shared his traumatic experience of the incident with the audience.

Joint District judges Golam Kibria and Harun-Ur-Rashid urged the government to declare the day

as 'black day' while assistant judges Mojibur Rahman, Khademul Kayes, Fazle Elahi Bhuiyan Mahubur Rahman Sarker and Shahin Uddin as national mourning day.

The BJS Secretary General Ataur Rahman conducted the meeting and he urged the government to meet their 11-point demand.

Mohammad Rafiqul Islam, also the Dhaka District and Sessions Judge, said government had assured them to meet their demands but most of their demands were not fulfilled.

He said JMB's activities are yet to be stopped and they are still threatening judges with more attacks until they achieve their goal, BJS president added.

He also said that Laxmipur District and Sessions Judge AK Roy had earlier sent a letter to the government saying JMB members threatened to kill him. So, the government should set up closed-circuit cameras in all the courts and ensure the judges' security in the courts and in their residences.

"I shall discuss about the matters in the next general meeting on December 5 and place all our demands to the authorities con-

cerned for declaring a public holiday on November 14 and commemorate the day as 'black and national mourning day'" said Rafiqul Islam.

On January 15-17, the judges observed a token protest against the government's delay in meeting their 11-point demand. The judges also wore black badges during the court proceedings during the token protest.

BJS's demands include providing personal armed bodyguards, tax-free vehicles, firearms for all judges, armed guards at judges' residences across the country and compensation of Tk 50 lakh to each of the families of the slain judges in Jhalakathi bomb attack on November 14 last year.

In addition to their 11-point demand, BJS placed a three-point demand to the prime minister on December 21 last year at their 55th annual conference. These demands include appointing assistant judges to the vacant posts, giving the district and sessions judges the status of joint secretary and appointing 50 per cent of High Court judges from lower courts.

## CANCELLATION OF VIVA EXAM CMC students go on rampage

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Some students of the 45th batch of the Chittagong Medical College (CMC) here yesterday staged a demonstration keeping the academic building of the college under lock and key demanding cancellation of the terminal viva examinations.

The students led by Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), CMC unit Assistant General Secretary (AGS) Sohel Rana vandalised the anatomy department at 3:00am yesterday, sources said.

They also locked up other five departments— pathology, microbiology, forensic medicine, pharmacology and community medicine— of the college.

Later, they also laid a siege to the academic building at around 8:00am demanding cancellation of the viva exams scheduled to begin yesterday.

Sources said the agitating students also threatened their batch mates for not to appear at the viva exams.

According to sources, some of the students of the 45th batch had been demanding for not holding the viva exams on the plea that it would hamper their preparation for the 2nd Professional (4th year final) examinations scheduled to begin from the first week of January.

However, the CMC authorities with the help of law enforcers opened the locked departments and held the scheduled viva exam where some ten students appeared.

When contacted Sohel admitted that he led the rampage damaging several rooms of the college.

"The viva examination was just like a formality and most of the medical colleges excepting only Dhaka Medical College and Chittagong Medical College do not bother to hold them," he argued.

CMC Principal Professor Dr Emran Bin Yunus termed the demand of the students as unreasonable and expressed his determination to hold the examination.

CMC authorities in a meeting with the students decided to hold the viva examination once again later for those who failed to appear yesterday, the principal told this correspondent.

## SALE OF ADMISSION FORMS DU extends time

DU CORRESPONDENT

Sale and submission of admission forms of Dhaka University (DU) for first year honours courses for the session 2006-2007 will continue until November 20 instead of November 16, a press release said.

University authorities took the decision yesterday at a meeting with Vice-Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz in the chair.



## Death anniversary

Today is the 35th death anniversary of Shaheed Dr Azharul Haque and Shaheed Dr Humayun Kabir of Dhaka Medical College Hospital, says a press release.

Members of Al Badar Bahini, collaborators of Pakistani occupation forces, killed Dr Azhar and Dr Humayun on this day in 1971 during the War of Liberation.

In observance of the day, a doa mahfil will be held at Azimpur graveyard after Asr prayers today.

## Rajshahi Dev Forum executives

Engr Monwar Hossain Chowdhury and MA Salam were elected president and general secretary of Rajshahi Divisional Development Forum at its conference at Officers' Club in the city recently, says a press release.

Other office-bearers are Vice-Presidents: Engr Md Habibur Rahman, Dr Md Nazrul Islam, Engr Md Abdul Kader, Dr Kahirul Bashar Chowdhury, Md Abul Kashem, Farhad Ahmed Akhand, Selina Rawshan Haider, Dr Md Ehasanul Hoque and Md Lutful Bari Mukul, Joint Secretaries: MA Rashid and Engr Md Nuruzzaman Khan, Treasurer: Md Mushfiqur Rahman, Organising Secretary: Alhaj Mesbahul Islam Japu, Social Welfare Secretary: MRA Jaman, Literature and Publication Secretary: GM Ashrafur Haider Tuhin, International Relation Secretary: Md Afzal Hossain, Information and Technology Secretary: Engr Md Azimul Haque, Education and Cultural Secretary: Muniesur Biswas, Broadcast and Public Relation Secretary: Journalist Shamsul Alam Setu, Health and Family Welfare Secretary: Dr Shaheen Akhter Jahan Habib, Women and Children Affairs Secretary: Jahanara Rahman Moni, Environment Affairs Secretary: Md Amirul Rahman, Student and Youth Affairs Secretary: Rabiul Hossain Raby, Labour and Manpower Secretary: Md Hamidur Rahman, Relief and Rehabilitation Secretary: Haider-Uz-Zaman.